

**Title 6 – Department of Higher Education
Division 10 – Commissioner of Higher Education
Chapter 2 – Student Financial Assistance Program**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-2.080 Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program. The commissioner is amending sections (1), (2), and (5)

PURPOSE: This amendment updates gender-specific language, and clarifies the policy for regaining eligibility after it is lost for failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress, as well as the policy for award disbursement and delivery.

(1) Definitions.

(L) Full-time student shall be defined by the approved institution as a postsecondary student who is enrolled in and is carrying a sufficient number of credit hours or its equivalent (minimum twelve (12) credit hours) at the approved private or public Missouri institution to secure the degree or certificate toward which the student is working in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)5. of this rule. Provided, however, that an otherwise eligible student having a disability as defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101-12213) who, because of *[his]***the student's** disability, is unable to satisfy the statutory minimum requirements for full-time status under Title IV student aid programs shall be considered by the approved institution to be a full-time student and shall be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress, as defined in subsection (1)*[(X)]***(W)** of this rule, while carrying a minimum of six (6) credit hours or their equivalent at the approved institution.

[(N)] His or he shall apply equally to the female as well as the male sex where applicable in this rule.]

*[(O)]***(N)** Initial recipient shall be any applicant who meets the eligibility requirements and is awarded an academic scholarship under the academic scholarship program in the academic year immediately following completion of secondary coursework.

*[(P)]***(O)** Medical need shall be a verified illness, disability, pregnancy, or other medical condition that prevents an eligible applicant from enrolling as a renewal recipient or which requires a recipient to cease all attendance at an approved institution in the academic year for which the scholarship award was originally offered.

*[(Q)]***(P)** MDHE shall be the Missouri Department of Higher Education created by section 173.005, RSMo.

*[(R)]***(Q)** Missouri test takers shall be all Missouri high school students taking the ACT examination or the SAT during the student's senior year in high school.

*[(S)]***(R)** Nonprofit organization shall be any organization which is organized under the laws of its home state as a not-for-profit corporation or organization, such as a charitable, scientific, or literary organization.

*[(T)]***(S)** Qualifying score shall be a composite score on the ACT examination or the SAT achieved in an eligible student's high school sophomore, junior, or senior year that is in the top five percent (5%) of Missouri test takers, as established at the beginning of an eligible student's final year of secondary coursework.

~~[(U)](T)~~ Renewal recipient shall be any applicant who received an academic scholarship as an initial recipient under the academic scholarship program and meets the eligibility requirements under the provisions of this rule and requirements as defined by the approved institution and is awarded a renewable academic scholarship under the academic scholarship program.

~~[(V)](U)~~ Resident of Missouri is any person who meets the requirements for resident status for Missouri set forth by the CBHE in 6 CSR 10-3.010.

~~[(W)](V)~~ SAT means the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Board.

~~[(X)](W)~~ Satisfactory academic progress shall be a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale, or the equivalent on another scale, and, with the exception of grade point average, as otherwise determined by the approved institution's policies as applied to other students at the approved institution receiving assistance under Title IV financial aid programs included in the Higher Education Act of 1965. The calculation of CGPA shall be based on the approved institution's policies as applied to other students in similar circumstances.

~~[(Y)](X)~~ Scholarship assistance or award shall be an amount of money paid by Missouri to a qualified applicant pursuant to the provisions of this rule.

~~[(Z)](Y)~~ Service-related expenses shall be any allowable expenses related to room, board, travel, and personal costs of the applicant necessary to satisfactorily provide and complete a service to a nonprofit organization, or a state or federal government agency.

~~[(AA)](Z)~~ Student exchange program shall be any recognized international or national secondary-level exchange program recognized by the student's high school that is available to qualified students to continue their educational studies.

~~[(BB)](AA)~~ Sufficient documentation shall be documents including, but not limited to, letters of participation, application materials, copies of orders or release papers, or a statement of medical need provided by the student exchange program, the nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency, any branch of the armed forces, or a practicing medical physician that verifies a student's status to the satisfaction of the MDHE.

(2) Basic Eligibility Policy.

(A) To be eligible for initial or renewed scholarship assistance under the academic scholarship program, an applicant must meet the following conditions:

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
2. Be a resident of Missouri;
3. Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time postsecondary student at an approved institution for the period of the scholarship and be in compliance with section 173.1104, RSMo, excluding the requirement of undergraduate status;
4. Not be enrolled or intend to use the award to enroll in a course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity; and
5. Be allotted scholarship assistance for one (1) academic year, but an applicant shall be eligible for renewed assistance until ~~[he]~~**the applicant** has obtained a baccalaureate degree; provided, the scholarship assistance shall not exceed a total of ten (10) semesters or fifteen (15) quarters or their equivalents.

(C) To be eligible for renewed scholarship assistance, an applicant must also:

1. Be continually enrolled in an approved institution full-time, excluding periods of enrollment during summer terms, as a second-, third-, fourth- or fifth-year student, or other student meeting the eligibility requirements of this rule;

2. Have continually received an academic scholarship subject to the availability of state-appropriated funds; and
3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress in *[his]***the applicant's** course of study.

(5) Award Policy.

(F) A student who has been denied an academic scholarship award for lack of satisfactory academic progress may not receive another academic scholarship award until the enrollment period after *[satisfactory academic progress]***the applicable standard** has once again been met.

(J) An applicant may change *[his]***the** approved institution choice by the established deadline and may transfer between approved institutions during the academic year. Failure to notify the MDHE of such action may result in loss of the award.

(L) The applicant's award will be sent to the approved institution *[to be endorsed by the applicant]***to be delivered to the student's account**. The institution shall retain the portion of the award that the student owes for expenses and promptly give the applicant any remaining funds.

AUTHORITY: section 173.250, RSMo Supp. [2010]2013. Original rule filed Nov. 14, 1986, effective Feb. 28, 1987. Amended: Filed Feb. 3, 1988, effective April 28, 1988. Amended: Filed Dec. 5, 1988, effective March 1, 1989. Amended: Filed Aug. 15, 1989, effective Nov. 15, 1989. Amended: Filed Oct. 14, 1992, effective May 6, 1993. Amended: Filed Sept. 29, 1994, effective March 30, 1995. Amended: Filed Jan. 12, 2007, effective July 30, 2007. Amended: Filed Dec. 15, 2008, effective June 30, 2009. Amended: Filed Dec. 10, 2010, effective June 30, 2011. Amended: Filed June 15, 2016.*

*Original authority: 173.250, RSMo 1986, amended 1988, 1990, 1991, 2007, 2010.

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with Kelli Reed, Missouri Department of Higher Education, P.O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469 or kelli.reed@dhe.mo.gov. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*